

October 2017

Deciding about the army? Conscription Counselling Service

Conscription Counselling Service

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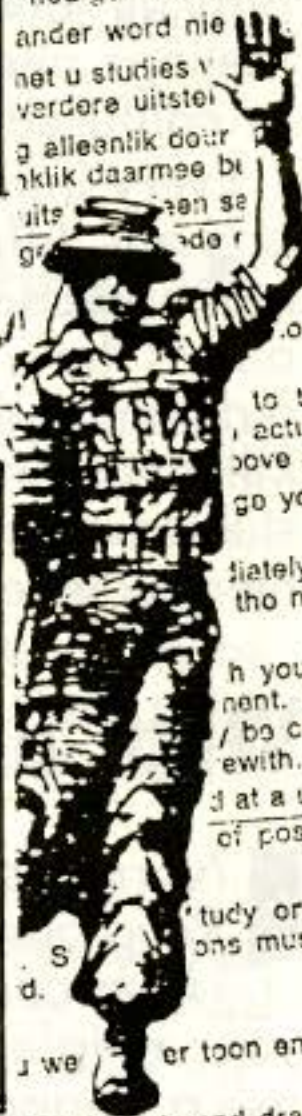
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Deciding about the army?

Conscription Counselling Service



The Dilemma

In the next few months, you or a family member or a friend, together with thousands of other South Africans, may be due to report for two years of initial military National Service, or be due for a camp. Some will report willingly, some unthinkingly, some with reservations, and some not at all.

For many people the decisions surrounding military service constitute a major dilemma for a variety of reasons. It involves

It is a difficult dilemma to face, especially when one's feelings and opinions about the military are mixed or confused.

Every individual conscript has a unique situation, and has different priorities in his life: for some, leaving the family for two years is a major problem; for others the interruption of a promising career poses a dilemma; for others the thought of being trained to kill another person is disturbing; while for others still, being involved with the maintenance of government policies by force, is unsettling.

What are my options?

■ **Normal service in the SADF**

■ **Religious Objection:**

☐ **Non-combatant service** may be granted to you if your religious beliefs do not allow you to carry or use a weapon. You will serve the normal call-up period doing non-combatant duties in military uniform.

☐ **Non-uniformed non-combatant service** may be granted to you if your religious beliefs do not allow

wards for religious objection.—(1) An application in terms of section 22 or 44, for an application and classify the applicant as a religious objector with whose religious service in a combatant capacity or service in a combatant capacity tasks of a combatant in any uniform; or (2) An objector with whose religious service or to undertake any military service or in connection with any task in or in connection with a category referred to in the application is made; or (3) An objector who has refused an application in terms of section 22 or 44, which should have been considered by the Board, may refer that application to the Board for consideration.

(4) A person who has refused an application in terms of section 22 or 44, which should have been considered by the Board, may refer that application to the Board for consideration.

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(11) A person who has refused an application in terms of section 22 or 44, which should have been considered by the Board, may refer that application to the Board for consideration.

you to carry or use a weapon, wear a military uniform or do anything that will aid an army. You will serve 1½ times the length of each call-up doing non-combatant duties in a non-military uniform.

☐ **Non-military service** may be granted to you if your religious beliefs do not allow you to do any kind of service in any army. You will serve 1½ times the length of all SADF service outstanding (6 years maximum) in one continuous period, in a government or municipal department.

■ **Prison:** If you refuse to appear before the Board, or you are not eligible to appear before the Board, and do not report for your call-up, you may be imprisoned for 1½ times the length of all SADF service outstanding, with a maximum of 6 years.

■ **Exile.**

What is "Religious Objection"?

The 1983 Defence Amendment Act makes provision for the recognition of *bona fide* religious pacifists: in other words those whose religious convictions conflict with service in any armed force, not just in South Africa. Following a written application to be accepted in one of three "religious objector" categories, your credentials are tested by the Board for Religious Objection.

The Board, which meets in Bloemfontein, is chaired by a judge and includes theologians and military personnel. The Board's address is: Private Bag X20521, Bloemfontein, 9300. (Phone 051-76-096/7)

If you apply to the Board but are unsuccessful, you will be expected to report for military training as outlined in your original call-up papers.

About the Counselling Service

We are offering a counselling service to any person who is experiencing difficulties or problems regarding military conscription. Our group is made up of parents, friends, ministers, pacifists, ex-national servicemen, men facing conscription, psychologists, and church workers. We hope to provide a space for you to discuss any problems you have related to conscription and to help you clarify the issues involved, so that any decision you make is well informed and suited to your particular circumstances.

You can contact us through the following people:

Paul	W☎ 816 2010 or 31 7616
Richard	H☎ 45 6574 or W☎ 301 5663
Sue	H☎ 78 4752 or W☎ 31 2609
Anita	H☎ 45 6574 or W☎ 301 5663

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